TAB. LXVIII.

PHASIANUS STACEII.

Phas. stramineo-albus, supra frequenter, subtus parcè nigro fasciatus, dorso abdomineque imis rufescentibus; capite cristato fusco; caudâ fasciis latis nigris, ad basin internè rufis, ornatâ.

Longitudo *corporis* ab apice rostri ad apicem caudæ, 3 ped. $4\frac{1}{2}$ unc.

THIS fine species, named in honour of Major Stacey, to whose researches in India we owe the discovery of it, although possessing many characters in common with the typical Pheasants, differs considerably from them in several particulars; its legs being shorter and thicker, and its head possessing a crest of which the true Pheasant is destitute. The *Phasianus Staceii* is, indeed, one of those very interesting birds which, deviating from the typical characters of neighbouring genera, serve at the same time as a connecting link between them; its long tail and general contour allying it to *Phasianus*, while its robust tarsus and its crested head show an approaching affinity to *Lophophorus* and *Euplocamus*. In the Himalaya, though a country abounding in this tribe of birds, the present species appears to be rare; few specimens having been observed in the numerous collections that have lately been received from those parts. The female has not, as far as we are aware, been sent to Europe, nor has any account of its habits and manners been hitherto transmitted to us.

The naked skin round the eye is bright scarlet; the feathers of the crest and the remainder of the head and neck are dull cinereous passing into tawny yellow, every feather, except on the cheeks and throat, being barred with black; the quill-feathers are marked with zigzag lines and are tipped with black; the rump is rich red brown, each feather having two spots of black near the tip; the tail is pale tawny, barred at regular distances with a narrow and a broad band of deep blackish brown; the under surface is pale tawny, barred as the back; the bill and tarsi brown.

The figure is half the natural size.